

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The execution of software may be controlled by a security policy expressed in a manifest. The software vendor or distributor specifies requirements for the use of software (e.g., which modules may be loaded into the software's address space, which module-signing keys are trustworthy, etc.), using a manifest specification language. A generation tool reads the specification and creates a manifest based on the specification. The tool may handle such details as retrieving keys from key files, computing software hashes, and the like. The manifest is distributed with the software and used by the environment in which the software executes to enforce the security policy.